

THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERNARD ROSS HANSEN
and DIANE RENEE ERDMANN,

Defendants.

No. 2:18-cr-00092-RAJ

**DECLARATION OF
BENJAMIN BYERS IN SUPPORT OF
DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO
EXCLUDE CERTAIN EVIDENCE
RELATED TO THE SALE OF
MS. ERDMANN'S PERSONAL
COLLECTION OF PRECIOUS
METALS**

ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED

**NOTED FOR HEARING:
July 16, 2021**

I, Benjamin C. Byers, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 and competent to testify. This declaration is based on my personal knowledge and belief.

2. I am an associate attorney at Corr Cronin LLP. I am one of the attorneys representing the defendant Ms. Diane Erdmann in this case.

1 3. This declaration is in support of Defendants' Motion to Exclude Certain
2 Evidence Related to the Sale of Ms. Erdmann's Personal Collection of Precious Metals.

3 4. On July 1, 2021, I met and conferred with Brian Werner, counsel for the
4 government, via telephone. During that telephone call, Mr. Werner expressed his belief that
5 this evidence was relevant because it showed defendants had gold "buried" in their backyard
6 that they used to fund their lifestyle.

7 5. On June 1, 2021, the government provided defense counsel with the
8 "Government Second Preliminary Exhibit List" via email. A true and correct copy of that
9 document is attached as **Exhibit A** to this declaration.

10 6. As part of discovery in this case, my firm has received the following
11 documents:

12 a. A purchase order from Williams Gold & Silver, dated August 2, 2016,
13 FBI302_012411-2. A true and correct copy is attached as **Exhibit B** to this declaration.

14 b. A report of an FBI interview of Steven Campau, dated July 24, 2017,
15 FBI302_012456-7. A true and correct copy is attached as **Exhibit C** to this declaration.

16 c. A report of an FBI interview of John Rickey, dated August 3, 2016,
17 FBI302_007451. A true and correct copy of an excerpt of the report is attached as **Exhibit D**
18 to this declaration.

19 d. A transcript of proceedings before Judge Christopher Alston in the
20 matter of *IN RE: NORTHWEST TERRITORIAL MINT, LLC*, Case No. 16-11767-CMA,
21 GOV00735186. A true and correct copy of an excerpt of the transcript is attached as
22 **Exhibit E** to this declaration.

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that
2 the foregoing is true and correct.

3 DATED: July 2, 2021 at Seattle, Washington.

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5 s/ Benjamin C. Byers
6 Benjamin C. Byers, WSBA No. 52299
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 2, 2021, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

DATED: July 2, 2021 at Seattle, Washington.

s/ Benjamin C. Byers

Benjamin C. Byers, WSBA No. 52299

CORR CRONIN LLP

1001 Fourth Avenue, Suite 3900

Seattle, Washington 98154

(206) 625-8600 Phone

(206) 625-0900 Fax

bbyers@corrchronin.com